

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 04088 201940 Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 MBFR-03 NIC-01 GAC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /109 W

----- 103146

R 201759 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3984

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 4088

HELSINKI FOR MPT DLE; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: SPD DOWN PLAYS CHANCELLOR'S THREAT TO
RESIGN AS PARTY CHAIRMAN

REFERENCE: BONN 3954

1. WITHIN HOURS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S THREAT TO RESIGN AS
PARTY CHAIRMAN SHOULD THE SPD CONVENTION NEXT MONTH IN
HANNOVER ADOPT POSITIONS CONTRADICTORY TO THOSE ADOPTED
LAST OCTOBER IN DORTMUND, SEVERAL SPD SPOKESMEN HAVE
DENIED HE MADE THE THREAT.

2. ON MARCH 19 IN BERLIN, SPD VICE- CHAIRMAN WEHNER SAID,
"THERE IS NO RESIGNATION THREAT FROM WILLY BRANDT".
WEHNER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CHANCELLOR WAS MERELY
REFERRING WITH "REFRESHING DIRECTNESS" TO THE OVER-
WHELMING VICTORY OF THE PARTY IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION
AND WAS WARNING THE PARTY ON THE EVE OF THE CONFERENCE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 04088 201940 Z

NOT TO DISAVOW THE PLATFORM THAT HAD LED TO THAT VICTORY.

3. SPD LEFT WING SPOKESMAN JOACHIM STEFFEN HAS ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRANDT MIGHT RESIGN AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AND HAS GONE ON TO SAY THAT HE " COULD NOT IMAGINE" THAT THE CONVENTION WOULD ADOPT RESOLUTIONS CONTRARY TO THOSE REPRESENTED BY THE PARTY IN THE ELECTION. REFERRING TO THE RECENT YONG SOCIALISTS' S RESOLUTION TO STOP OFFSET PAYMENTS FOR AMERICAN TROOPS STATIONED IN EUROPE, STEFFEN SAID SUCH A DECISION WAS " COMPLETELY UNTHINKABLE. THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF HAS SAID NOTHING PUBLICLY ON HIS REMARKS OF THE WEEKEND.

4. THE FDP LEADERSHIP HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON BRANDT' S THREAT, BUT THE SPEAKER OF THE FDP IN NORTHRHINE-WESTPHALIA " WELCOMED" THE CHANCELLOR'S WARNING TO HIS LEFT WING. FDP CHAIRMAN SCHEEL HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE YOUNG SOCIALIST' S RESOLUTIONS. BARZEL, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE SPD DISAVOWALS OF BRANDT' S THREAT AND HAS PUBLICLY REFERRED TO THEM AS AN ATTEMPT ONCE MORE TO HIDE THE SERIOUS THREAT FROM THE LEFT THAT HAS LONG BEEN VISIBLE WITHIN THE SPD.

HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN04088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaicou.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971217
Subject: SPD DOWN PLAYS CHANCELLOR' S THREAT TO RESIGN AS PARTY CHAIRMAN REFERENCE: BONN 3954
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO HELSINKI
LONDON
MOSCOW
MULTIPLE
PARIS
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005